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PRESENT STATUS OF UNIVERSITY BILL

Mr. McGuire Suggests That Legislature Reject Early-Rison Measure and Indorse General Idea of College for Women.

Murray M. McGuire, a member of the committee appointed by Richmond Chapter, University of Virginia Alumni, to oppose the enactment of the Early-Rison bill, gave out yesterday the following statement containing a discussion of the situation and a suggested solution:

It has been unjustly urged that the opponents of the Early-Rison bill are opposing the establishment of a college for the higher education of women in Virginia. Such is not the case. The two matters are entirely separate and distinct, and in no way related to each other. The question of establishing a college for the higher education of women is not before the Legislature, but the enactment of this particular plan for a woman's college as contained in the Early-Rison bill is the only question up for discussion. Why do those persons who are engaged in the attempt to force affirmative action on this bill by the Legislature fear a postponement of two years if their cause be just? The Times-Dispatch of Sunday suggested that no harm can come to the university, to the woman's college, nor to the State, by further consideration of this matter and fuller development of plans for the institution before there be taken a step for the establishment from which there can be no recession and which will commit the Commonwealth to large annual expenditures, indefinitely.

One Reason for Postponement.
No one can deny that this matter is too important for the Legislature to take any risk as to making a mistake. Moreover, if this step be taken now, with the bill in its present or any kindred shape, and with the sentiment among the alumni what it has been shown to be, this action will cause such a breach that the university, in its new form, will lack the support of those upon whom it must chiefly depend. These enthusiastic persons forget that the majority of the students at the university came there through the interest and influence of the alumni, and it is this power for the university's welfare that they would so definitely cast aside, and who will say that the prospective girl students can compensate the university or the State for such a loss?

Legislators Pledged on Misunderstanding.
Many members of the Legislature promised to vote for this measure before they understood its provisions and before they knew there was any opposition. Their support in many instances was obtained on statements that have been proved to be erroneous.

Faculty Misquoted.
They were told that the faculty of the university were in favor of this bill, and this statement went unchallenged until the publication of a letter from Professor Graves showing that the faculty had never even considered this measure and had indorsed an entirely different idea. The resolutions

passed by the faculty, published later, show that the plan favored by them differs in every material element from that provided for by this bill, except as to location.

Board of Visitors Misquoted.
It was said that the board of visitors favored the passage of this bill. The only meeting of the board held to consider the question indorsed the idea of a co-ordinate college near to and affiliated with the university, but expressly disapproved the provisions of this bill in its original form, and the amended form does not correct the objectionable features. The board, at the meeting referred to, passed a resolution requesting that the Legislature do not enact into law any bill on the subject at this time. During the discussion in the Senate chamber Friday night some attempt was made by the supporters of the Early-Rison bill to show that the majority of the individual members of the board actually favored the passage of this bill, despite the recorded action just set out, and despite the fact that there is no evidence that more than one of those absent from that meeting of the board ever saw the bill, or its amended form. Mr. Rosewell Page even went so far as to state that he had a letter from the rector of the board setting forth his views in favor of this bill. Mr. Page declined to read the letter aloud on that occasion, and the letter itself, as published in the Sunday Times-Dispatch, shows the reason for that unwillingness.

Letter From Rector.
The letter, under date of January 24th, sets out that the rector has in mind conditions such as those which obtain at Columbia, where, to adopt his quotation from the laws governing the facilities of law, medicine and applied science are not open to women. But this amended bill, as is now admitted, permits just this thing. Again, the rector, who is supposed to be better acquainted with the attitude of ladies and gentlemen responsible for their statement as to the position of these men. Having in mind such conditions as he describes, and not those covered by this bill, he yet admits that "this movement . . . may not be backed by the visitors of the university. It may or it may not be." This does not agree with the claims of the supporters of the Early-Rison bill. The rector states what we all understand, that the university belongs to the people of Virginia and that they are entitled to what they want. We are fully agreed on that, and the opponents of this bill insist that the people should be heard on a specific plan for establishing a college for women. The persons behind this measure claim that the people want the Early-Rison bill enacted into law.

Erroneous to Say That People Want Bill.
As a matter of fact, the people have had no chance to be heard on this question, so vitally affecting their university, and the supporters of the measure are unwilling to wait that the people may be heard. Dr. W. S. McNeill, who published a communication in The Times-Dispatch on the 26th day of January in such claim as to the support of the people in the State.

Unfortunately, to illustrate his contention he embodied in his article a resolution of the executive committee of the organization composed of 10,000 resolutions itself favored women, and the committee merely favored a college for the higher education of women, and did not make any reference to the bill, nor to such a college as is proposed for in this bill, nor to the location of the university, nor to its being co-ordinate, or connected in any way with the university. The advocates of this bill make many references to the resolutions they have in public hearings, but they read a single one of these resolutions so that it might be analyzed, and this one that was inadvertently published by one of their allies shows their claim to be ill founded.

The Board of Education Not in Favor of Bill.
They claim support from the Board of Education. The resolutions of the board published by themselves show that the board has never considered this measure, that it has in effect recommended that no college for women be established, because of the financial needs of the State, and that the board did not consider it within its province to speak as to the location of this institution when created. It is to be noted that Dr. Alderman and the Superintendent of Public Instruction are members of this board.

Dr. Alderman Admits He Misunderstood Bill.
Especially have the persons behind this matter claimed that Dr. Alderman, the president of the university, favored this measure. They even had him appear before a meeting of the joint committees of the Senate and House to speak for it at a time when none of those now most active in opposition to the bill were on hand. He was present later when a hearing had been granted last week, by the Senate committee, at the request of the representatives of the alumni, who are opposed to the Early-Rison bill. On this second occasion he frankly admitted that he had misunderstood the provisions of this bill. At this time he had in mind the attitude of the faculty approving the general idea,

and he had not realized before the discussion that this Early-Rison bill, even as amended, goes very much further than those resolutions, and provides for a different sort of institution. He is a gifted speaker, and he painted a beautiful picture of a co-ordinate college, and the girls would have their separate home there, and would not even be seen "on the lawn or under the arcades" except when they came, as all citizens of the State have a right to come to the library, museums or public hall.

In flowing language Dr. Alderman said that the co-ordinate college would be at some distance from the university, and that the girls would have their separate home there, and would not even be seen "on the lawn or under the arcades" except when they came, as all citizens of the State have a right to come to the library, museums or public hall.

Dr. Alderman's Admissions.
But after several plain and pointed questions had been asked, and he was compelled to give a direct reply thereon, he had to admit that under this bill, as amended, the girls of such a co-ordinate college would have the same lecture rooms as the men, under the same professors in every department of the university, provided only that they be not present in the same lecture room at the same time. They may come in the same way, and in the same way. The buildings may be full of students of both sexes at the same time under this bill as amended. They may be at the university, "on the lawn and under the arcades" and in the university buildings as students at all times, just as much as the men, provided only that they be not in any particular lecture room at the same time as the men. Finally, he was unwillingly forced to say that this bill he had been asked to favor is not what he had in his mind, and in order to prohibit the things pointed out above, which he said should be prohibited, the bill must be changed. He saw that changes must be made to fit his picture, and the unwilling witness dramatically exclaimed: "Write it in!" But there he parted with his new found friends, for they did not agree to this. The person responsible for this bill did not want any such change written in it, and the wishes of that person, not those of Dr. Alderman, prevailed, so that the picture drawn in the bill, and not that drawn in Dr. Alderman's imagination, is now before the Legislature.

Favors Claim of Support Unfounded.
They claimed that the board of visitors favored the passage of this bill in its original form and its full significance. He has said he did not, and he has been forced to admit that he does not favor material features of this bill, even in its amended shape.

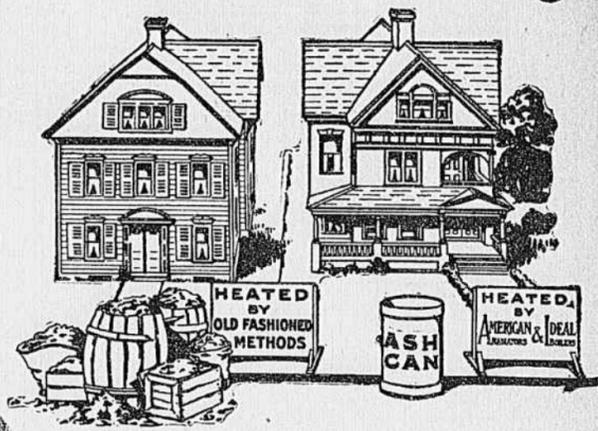
They Claimed that the Board of Visitors Favored It.
The action of the board shows that the Board of Education supported them. The published resolutions of the Board of Education show that it does not.

Question.
There is no opposition by any one to a college for women. The question is: Shall this particular bill, for this particular college, with these particular or similar provisions, become a law? Of the many supporters of these advocates, claim, practically none can be shown to favor the Early-Rison bill in its original or amended shape, as has been pointed out, and no one has given any reason for acting now. If there be any real demand for this movement, nothing can be done by waiting for two years. The reason for delaying action so that the alumni of the university may have time for full consideration is so potent that the board of visitors earnestly ask for postponement. The original situation is such that the Board of Education, at its December meeting, recommended that no action on the subject of a college for women be taken at this session.

Dr. Alderman on This Question.
Dr. Alderman, speaking for the advocates of this bill, when painting his glowing picture of the co-ordinate college he had in his mind (which he had to admit was not the same as that provided for in this bill), refused to express any opinion as to whether action should be taken at this time. The resolution of the board of visitors, which showed their disapproval of the measure in its original form, not materially different from its amended form, and asked for postponement, narrowed the proposition down to whether the bill be right or wrong, the vital question is whether any action shall be taken now, with feeling

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